



Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

February 2019
Volume 20
Issue 2

SEATS FILLING FOR FEBRUARY 21 STORM SPOTTER CLASS

SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE METEOROLOGISTS FROM FOUR TV STATIONS, TWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

By Jay Farlow, W9LW

More than half of the available seats for the Allen County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) storm spotter training session Feb. 21 had already been reserved as of Jan. 26. ARES will host the class at the Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Scheduled speakers include meteorologists from ABC21, Fort Wayne's NBC, Fox 55 and WANE 15. Allen County Office of Homeland Security director Bernie Beier and Consolidated Communications Partnership deputy director John Chavez also plan to speak.

The class is free and open to the general public, but seating is limited. ARES therefore requests all who plan to attend, to register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/allen-county-storm-spotter-education-tickets-54685721465>. Registering assures a seat and receipt of a certificate of attendance after the event.

"This two-hour class will provide attendees the knowledge they need to help protect their communities from severe weather like tornadoes," said Jim Moehring, emergency coordinator (team leader), ACARES. "Although we are a ham radio



organization, people need not be hams to be storm spotters, so we welcome anyone who is interested in weather."

Moehring said the "ground truth" that volunteer spotters provide is essential to the process through which the National Weather Service (NWS) issues storm warnings. He pointed out that this remains true despite advances in weather radar, because the beam from the NWS radar site near North Webster is 2,500 feet or more above the ground by the time it

reaches Allen County. This month's class will be equally valuable for people who've never attended a spotter class and SKYWARN® veterans.

Traditionally, meteorologists from the NWS Northern Indiana office near North Webster have presented spotter training every spring in Fort Wayne. Changes in the office's responsibilities, however, led it to change its training schedule. As a result, NWS meteorologists won't be in Fort

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Internet Home Pages

Fort Wayne Radio Club:	http://www.FWRC.info/
	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FWRC/
ACARTS:	http://www.acarts.com
Fort Wayne DX Association:	http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/
ARES:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Allen_Co_IN_ARES/
IN_PACKET Yahoo Group:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IN_PACKET/

Allen County HamNews is a monthly joint publication of the Fort Wayne Radio Club (P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN 46885), the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851), and the Fort Wayne DX Association.

Please send any articles, classified ads, or other information to the editor, Ken Helms, AB9ZD, at **AB9ZD(at)ARRL.NET**. Please put "For Newsletter" in the subject line. Most text and graphics formats are acceptable. Microsoft Word and JPEG are preferred if separate files are used. For those without computer access, please mail your submission to either of the clubs post office boxes.

The deadline for the each issue is a few days before the end of the preceding month.

Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

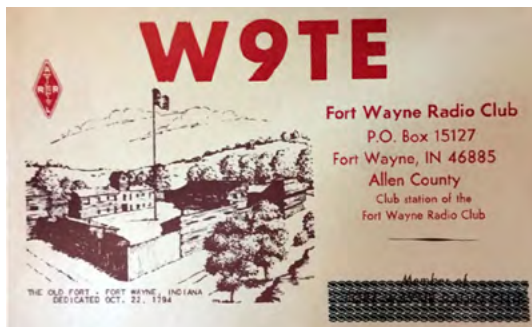
FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB CENTENNIAL GRAPHIC CONTEST CONTINUES

2020 will be the FWRC'S 100th Anniversary! We need a graphic design (or designs) highlighting our 100th anniversary that will be used on the following items:

- **QSL Cards** (either W9TE or member's call signs)
- **SES Certificates** (Special Event Stations; on air events)
- **Clothing** (T-Shirts; Sweatshirts; Jackets; Coffee Mugs; etc.)
- **Club Trailer & Repeater Shack**
- **Medallions**

Details: Starts NOW; **submit by February 28th**. Judging begins 1st of March. Winner's announcement: March 15th meeting. Prize: free batch of personal QSL cards (100)

Please submit your design ideas to Steve Nardin, W9SAN, in JPEG or BMP format. Use computer or hand draw, whatever you are comfortable using. The club may decide to use a professional artist to 'polish' the final design (like N2EST). You can submit a design to cover all items or do individual designs for QSL's & others.



Example of a Past FWRC Card:

There is still plenty of time to submit your ideas to Steve.

SO WHAT ELSE HAPPENED IN 1920?

In his book *1920: The Year That Made the Decade Roar*, Eric Burns explores the first year of a captivating decade and shows that it wasn't all flappers and jazz bands. In November 1920, the first commercially-licensed radio station began broadcasting live results of the presidential election. The transmission of breaking news was new and unprecedented, and as word spread of this new medium, the "talking box" exploded in popularity. Two years later, Americans bought 100,000 radios. In 1923, they bought 500,000. By 1926, there were over 700 commercial radio sta-

tions, and virtually the entire country was covered by radio signals. As Burns writes, "No other event of 1920 would have more of an effect on the future than the birth of radio, with was in turn the birth of American mass media."



February 15: To Be Announced.

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Unless otherwise scheduled, all meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 4700 Vance Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN.

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Wayne until autumn of 2019 and then not again until spring of 2021.

"We wanted to assure that our members, and members of the general public have a chance to receive storm spotter education before this spring's severe weather season," Moehring said. "We therefore decided to devote our February meeting to a spotter class and to invite everyone to attend. Because NWS meteorologists aren't available, we're thrilled that four TV stations in Fort Wayne are sending meteorologists to help teach the weather-related material."

A complete list of speakers and their topics follows:

- **Jim Moehring, KB9WWM**, Allen County ARES emergency coordinator (team leader): Introduction to the NWS SKYWARN program and the importance of volunteer storm spotters.
- **Jay Farlow, W9LW**, ACARES assistant emergency coordinator for SKYWARN: How storm warnings are issued and distributed. Also, storm spotter reporting methods and best practices.
- **Charles Ward, KC9MUT**, experienced storm spotter: Best practices to remain safe while storm spotting.
- **Bernie Beier**, Allen County Office of Homeland Security director: The role



of the Allen County Office of Homeland Security with regard to severe weather.

- **John Chavez**, Consolidated Communications Partnership deputy director: The role of the Consolidated Communication Partnership (911/dispatch) in severe weather events.
- **Caleb Saylor**, Fox 55 weekend meteorologist: Thunderstorm basics, including how storms form and become severe.
- **Caleb Chevalier**, ABC21 weekend morning meteorologist: Types of thun-

derstorms, including those most likely to create tornadoes. Also, radar apps and interpretation

- **Jon Wilson**, Fort Wayne's NBC weekend meteorologist: Thunderstorm hazards, including straight-line winds, large hail, flash flooding and tornadoes.
- **Nicholas Ferreri**, WANE 15 chief meteorologist: Cloud identification, including distinguishing scary-looking but benign weather from true threats that spotters should report.

DAYTONA BEACH CERT ART SPECIAL EVENT STATION – N4DAB

61ST ANNUAL DAYTONA 500

FEBRUARY 13 – FEB 17, 2019

HF and 6M; CW SSB DIGITAL (PKS31, RTTY, JT65). Watch for spots on sites such as DX Summit, DXWatch. Propagation is everything!

Primary operating hours 0900 to 2400 each day local time as operators are available. Frequencies announced via spotting networks as station activates and posted on the Team website. QSL card and Commemorative Certificate available. QSL Card: Your card with a SASE for direct, or via the bureau. Certificate information will be published on their web page.

QSL DETAILS

We will send requested QSL cards and



Certificates out as soon as possible after the event.

We have available:

- A high quality color QSL card via USPO mail

- A high quality color printed certificate via USPO mail

The cost for printing the cards comes from your donations and the rest from out of our own pockets. We are NOT financially supported by the Speedway or the City of Daytona Beach. Donations can be made in cash, check, or PayPal. We appreciate any donation, no matter how big or small!

Please email Steve WB4OMM if you have any questions: n4dab@n4dab.com

<https://n4dab.com/daytona-500-special-event-station/>

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The January planning meeting was very successful. Even though the attendance was low, those members present all presented excellent suggestions for future meetings and activities. The board will use the list created to plan future meetings and arrange for speakers. Many thanks to all of you that attended and made your thoughts known. This is what it is all about. It is the member's club and they should be the ones to decide what the club does. It is the board's responsibility to listen to the members and implement their wishes.

ACARTS will not have a February Gen-



eral Meeting, even though the National Weather Service is not holding SKYWARN training in Allen County until sometime in the fall. ARES is holding a SKYWARN related session on February, 21st, the Thursday of the week of our regular meeting. The fall is too close to the Hamfest for ACARTS to give up a meeting for SKYWARN. Details of this meeting and registration information are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

President

ACARTS JANUARY 2019 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Dave, W9LKH.

Dave announced that there would not be a Hamfest Steering Committee meeting following the ACARTS meeting as Joseph, K9RFZ, was unavailable.

After introductions, Dave asked if there were any new hams with a membership letter present. None were present.

Dave stated that ACARTS would not have a February General Meeting, even though the National Weather Service is not holding SKYWARN training in Allen County until sometime in the fall. ARES is holding a SKYWARN related session on February, 21st, the Thursday of the week

of our regular meeting. The fall is too close to the Hamfest for ACARTS to give up a meeting for SKYWARN.

Howard, N9ADS, presented a proposed ACARTS budget for 2019 that had previously approved by the board. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the budget as proposed by Bernie, K9JDF, seconded by Steve, K9SKS, and passed by a voice vote.

A planning meeting for ACARTS was held. Every member present was given the opportunity to express what kind of program they would like to have at upcoming meetings and what kind of activities they would like the club to hold. Many excellent suggestions were made, so the

No Meeting: Members are encouraged to attend the Storm Spotter Training.

Unless otherwise scheduled, all General meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Red Cross Center, 1212 E California Rd, Fort Wayne, IN. Board meeting are held at the Salvation Army Facility.



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Position Open

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board will be able to pick meeting topics and arrange speakers for many meetings to come by choosing from the list.

Several Hamfest topics were then discussed even though there was not a formal Steering Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH.

ACARTS JANUARY 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Dave announced that the January meeting will be a planning meeting to give the members an opportunity to express what activities and programs that they would like.

He added that ACARTS would not have a February General Meeting, even though the National Weather Service is not holding SKYWARN training in Allen County until sometime in the fall. ARES is holding a SKYWARN related session on February, 21st, the Thursday of the week of our regular meeting. The fall is too close to the Hamfest for ACARTS to give up a meeting for SKYWARN.

Because of the possibility of additional Hamfest expenses, payment of the charity donations authorized in the December meeting had been held off. As the additional Hamfest expenses did not arise, it was decided to make the donations of \$300 each to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Community Harvest Food Bank, as previously authorized.

Howard, N9ADS, stated that ACARTS has several tower sections that have not been used for several years, and that someone may be interested in purchasing them. It was decided to let the interested party make an offer.

Howard, N9ADS, presented a proposed ACARTS budget for 2019. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the budget as proposed by Bernie, K9JDF, seconded by Steve, K9SKS, and passed by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH.

So Now WHAT?

ARRL LAUNCHING NEW PODCAST GEARED TOWARD NEW RADIO AMATEURS

For those just getting started on their Amateur Radio journey, ARRL is launching a new podcast aimed at answering your questions, providing support and encouragement for newcomers to get the most out of the hobby. The podcast "So Now What?" will launch on Thursday, March 7, and new episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast.

Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Garcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

"No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community... that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have," said ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast's executive producer.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

Given the growing popularity of podcasts, Isgur believes that providing this information in a podcast format will be a very effective method of reaching out and engaging this particular part of the Amateur Radio community, which is important for building and maintaining Amateur Radio interest and activity.

Patnode said she is excited to ask questions she has about different aspects of Amateur Radio, such as how to incor-



porate ham radio with newer technologies like Raspberry Pi computers and Arduinos, and to learn more about the hobby right along with the audience.

Garcia believes the "So Now What?" podcast will be a perfect complement to the podcasts that the ARRL already offers — "ARRL The Doctor Is In" and "ARRL Audio News."

In addition to serving as co-host, Patnode is also the audio editor/producer of the podcast. ARRL Graphics Department Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, designed the podcast logo, and ARRL Radiosport Administrative Manager Sabrina Jackson, KC1JMW, will voice the introduction and closing.

Listeners will be able to find the "So Now What?" podcast on Apple iTunes, Blubrry, or Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

"So Now What?" will be sponsored by LDG Electronics, a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launching-new-podcast-geared-toward-new-radio-amateurs>



<http://www.arrl.org/doctor>



Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

When we moved back north from Texas to Ft Wayne in 1988, I decided to start chasing 160m DXCC in earnest. We ended up moving out of the city limits on 2.11 acres with no restrictions for putting up antennas. I had room for two towers, a tree-supported 160m inverted-L, other wire antennas and eventually two different low band receive antennas – a SAL-20 Shared Apex Loop and a reversible 200-foot long 160m BOG (Beverage On Ground).

WORKING THE LOW BANDS FROM A CITY LOT

Since 160m antennas were kind of easy on 2.11 acres, I started thinking about the house and yard where I grew up in Hammond and from where I operated during my Novice and early General days. It was a typical city lot – 40 feet in width by 130 feet in depth. See the attached image. What would I do for 160m, 80m and 40m if I still lived there?

With the front of the house set back from River Drive about 40 feet, I assumed the front yard could only be used for a minimally obtrusive tie-off point – not a major support structure. The house is two-story, so I would install a mast to 40-foot high on the back side of the upper story framework.

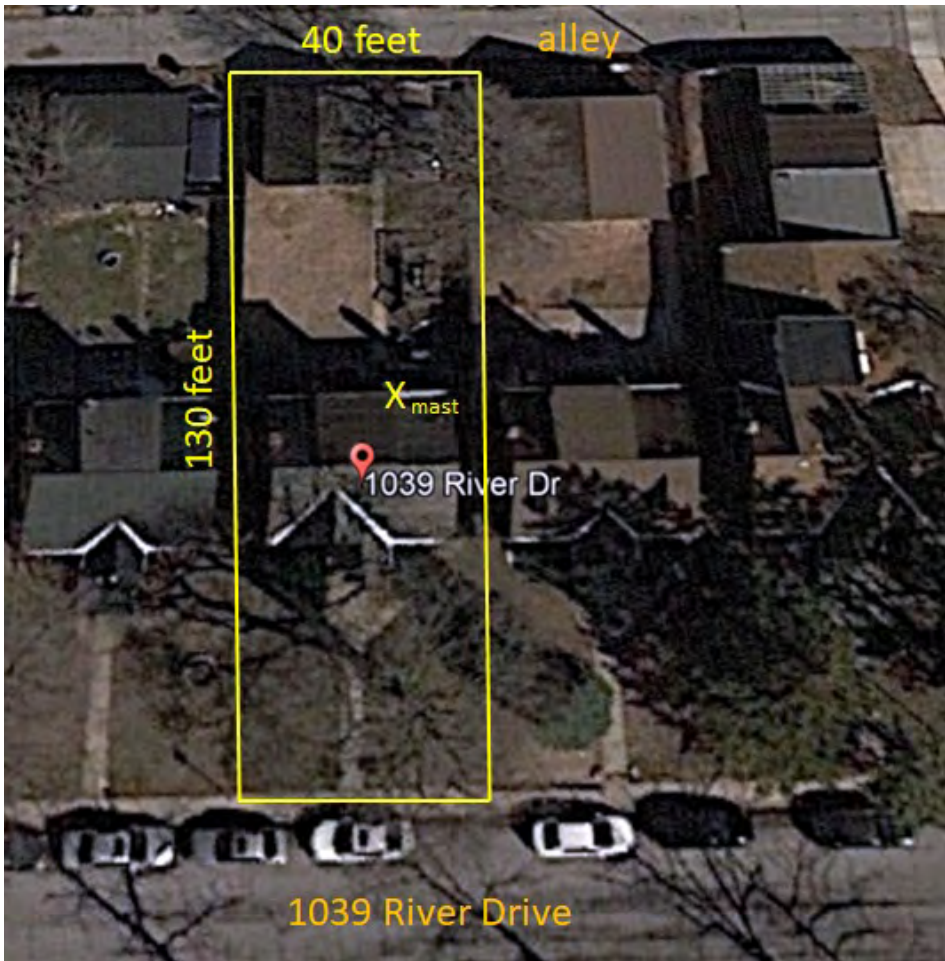
My first choice for a transmit antenna would be a trapped 160m/80m/40m inverted-vee (for example, an Alpha Delta ALF-DX-LB with an overall length of 100 feet). At an apex of 40 feet, each side of

the antenna would go out horizontally to 40 feet at 10 feet high. Perhaps a tree or a lamp post or a flag pole in the front yard would serve as the minimally obtrusive tie-off point. The garage at the back of the property would serve as the other tie-off point for the inverted-vee.

As for a receive antenna, of course the trapped inverted-vee could be used for receive. But if man-made noise is a problem (which may happen since it's a residential area – and it's an old area, too), the back yard is big enough to accept a small receive antenna. For example, a SAL-12 Shared Apex Loop comes to mind. It installs in a square 24 feet on a side. Due to it being the smallest Shared Apex Loop model, it may suffer a bit in sensitivity on 160m. But that's a compromise you may have to accept. And I would definitely use an amplifier in transmit to extend your transmit capability – something like an AL-811 or AL-811H to start with (they both cover 160m).

So, here's one solution for working the low bands from a small city lot. You'll likely not be the first in the pile-ups, but you'll work your share of stations.

I'd also check out <http://www.n8mr.com/topband.html> and WB6RSE's article "160 Meter DXCC from a West Coast City Lot" in the March 2016 QST for other ideas.



ARRL'S LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD TOPS 1 BILLION QSO RECORDS

As of December 19, more than 1 billion contact records have been entered into ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) system. And, while 1 billion QSO records represents a significant milestone, a more important statistic may be the nearly 187 million contacts confirmed via LoTW over its 15-year history.

The one billionth record was uploaded by 7X3WPL, the Sahara DX Radio Club, at 23:32 UTC for a 20-meter SSB contact with Davide Cler, IW1DQS, that took place on December 28, 2016. The upload resulted in a match (QSL).

LoTW debuted in 2003 after a lot of behind-the-scenes planning and development. Initially LoTW got off to a slow start. While user numbers gradually grew to about 5,000, a lot of hams didn't fully understand what LoTW was or how it worked, and opening an account could be cumbersome.

LoTW continued with few major changes until October 2011, when a perfect storm struck — a large ingestion of logs after the CQ World Wide DX Contest and a freak snowstorm that knocked out power for more than a week in most places.

Field Services and Radiosport Department Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ Fusaro said uninterruptible power source (UPS) back-up power quickly depleted in the days-long power outage. "When the system came back online, it was overwhelmed with the amount of data coming in and could not keep up," Fusaro said. "The water was coming in faster than the pumps could pump it out. Crash!"

The disaster was a blessing in disguise, though, because it revealed weaknesses in the LoTW software and hardware.

Fusaro said the League spent tens of thousands of dollars for new hardware that was express-shipped and installed at HQ. IT Manager Mike Keane, K1MK, started implementing some code changes to expedite log processing by giving priority to small- to medium-sized logs and inserting mega-files as openings occurred. Fusaro said a lot of the large files contained duplicate data, bogging down the pro-

cess so much that users were resending logs already in the queue. Through all of this not one QSO record was lost because LoTW uses a redundant backup process.

"A big problem was communicating to the public what was happening," Fusaro said. An LoTW users' group reflector and a queue-processing status page were set up. With better communication, Fusaro said, the system attracted additional numbers. Today, LoTW boasts some 112,000 users in all 340 DXCC entities, and 75% of all DXCC applications are filed via LoTW, which accounts for 86% of confirmations applied.

Now, ARRL is looking at the development of LoTW 2.0, Fusaro said. "Over the years we have added more awards that can be applied using LoTW QSL credits; VUCC, Triple Play, and two CQ awards — WPX and WAZ."

"The service still has room for a lot of improvement, but it continues to grow and is the preferred method of confirming QSOs because it strives to protect the integrity of DXCC and all awards," Fusaro said.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-s-logbook-of-the-world-tops-1-billion-qso-records>

NEW 2200-METER BEACON ON THE AIR FROM AUSTRALIA

The Caboolture Radio Club (VK4QD) <http://vk4qd.com> in Queensland, Australia, is now operating a beacon on 2200 meters on 137.444 kHz using the call sign VK4RBC. Australia's telecommunications authority ACMA has granted permission for continuous operation of the beacon, using WSPR2 (6H00F1D), plus a CW identifier. The power is 1 W EIRP into a 500-meter (1,640-foot) wire at a maximum of 40 meters (131 feet).

Located in grid square QG62Iw, the VK4RBC beacon also receives, which is unusual for a beacon, and it has copied signals from WH2XND (operated by Ron Douglass, N17J) in Arizona. In the gaps between transmissions, it will report all WSPR decodes to WSPRnet.

Equipment is an Icom IC-718 transceiver and Monitor Sensors TVTR2 2200-meter transverter running 50 W TPO. This is the first Australian beacon that has been granted permission to operate below 28 MHz.

"With WH2XND also reliable, we will now see exactly how good the path from USA to VK really is on 2200 meters," Caboolture Radio Club President Roger Crofts, VK4YB, remarked in a news release.

2019 "RST" 4TH ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Time frame: Jan 15- Feb 28, 2019 (some ops may be on earlier or later)

NOTE

We don't operate REMOTE. Our operators are where their call sign indicates!

NCDXA and club K7ICE - North Country DX Association's (NCDXA) sole purpose is promoting Amateur Radio by encouraging mobile and portable operating, island activating, special events, contesting and antenna homebrewing.

NCDXA, club call K7ICE, has been active from all over the USA, Alaska and Canada plus the US Virgin Islands, Hawaii and the Dominican Republic.

NCDXA members are dedicated groups of DXpeditioners specializing in unique amateur radio activities. KL7RST, VY1RST,

VE8RST, VY0RST, OX7RST and N1RAC form a broad network with K7ICE to educate the public about Amateur Radio. NCDXA is the largest active North American Amateur Radio Association north of 60 degrees north!

73 de "Yukon John" KL7JR

<https://www.qrz.com/db/k7ice>



ARRL TO HOLD NATIONAL CONVENTION AT HAMVENTION®

MAY 17-19, 2019

ARRL Press Release

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio®, has announced that Hamvention® will host the 2019 ARRL National Convention in Xenia, Ohio, May 17-19, 2019. Hamvention® is the largest annual Amateur Radio gathering in the US. Hamvention® and the ARRL National Convention will share a joint theme, "Mentoring the Next Generation" of Amateur Radio operators.

As host of the 2019 ARRL National Convention, Hamvention® will feature dozens of forums covering a variety of topics in Amateur Radio, such as technology, public service, on-air operating, training, and learning. A track of presentations will be organized to build on the convention theme, encouraging more individuals and radio clubs to serve in mentoring roles, leading new and inexperienced radio amateurs to become more active, involved, and engaged.

A special event Amateur Radio station, call sign W8BI, will be set up and operating from the fairgrounds—inviting attendees to join in for some on-air fun.

The National Convention will also feature ARRL EXPO—a large assembly of ARRL-sponsored exhibits, activities, and representatives for ARRL programs and services. Several ARRL-sponsored presen-

tations and forums will be given. Information will be posted to www.arrl.org/expo as it becomes available.

2019 will be the third Hamvention® to be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio since the event relocated from Dayton. At 28,417 visitors, Hamvention® recorded its third-largest attendance ever in 2018. It attracts many international attendees.

Since 1952, Hamvention® has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association® (DARA), an ARRL-affiliated radio club, and is supported by volunteers from radio clubs throughout the country. In past years, Hamvention® has received regular sanctioning as the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Hamvention® hosted the ARRL National Convention most recently in 2005 and 2009.

Hamvention® features multiple buildings of indoor vendor exhibits, an outdoor flea market, and many food trucks and concession stands. There is free parking onsite and at nearby remote parking lots served by free shuttles.

The Hamvention® website www.hamvention.org will include details for convention tickets and information about forums, exhibits (including information for vendors and flea market), travel, and preferred hotels with special rates. Con-

vention tickets are \$22 in advance; or \$27 at the gate. Each ticket includes convention admission for all three days. Electric scooter rental information can be found at the Hamvention website. Onsite RV camping is managed by the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Ham radio operators are encouraged to bring family and friends, and extend their convention trip by visiting nearby popular attractions. The National Museum of the US Air Force, the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world, is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The Dayton region also boasts many parks, museums, shopping, entertainment, and dining options.

All major airlines serve the minutes-away Dayton International Airport (DAY), and some travelers use the airports in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio, driving the final 60 to 90 minutes to Dayton/Xenia. Plan your trip to Hamvention® at www.greenecountyohio.org and also check out www.daytoncvb.com.

Interested parties will find complete details for the 2019 ARRL National Convention at www.arrl.org/expo (coming soon).

For information about ARRL and Amateur Radio, visit www.arrl.org.

2019 FOXHUNT SCHEDULE

The following is the planned Foxhunt schedule for 2019. All foxhunts start at 1:30 PM on Sunday at the River Greenway Trailhead at Cobin Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course. (The September date has changed to the 15th.)

February 3
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2
July 14
August 4
September 15
October 6
November 3



If you have something you would like to have listed in the classified section then please send an email to the newsletter editor at **AB9ZD(at)ARRL.NET**.

PI-STAR – SOFTWARE FOR YOUR RASPBERRY PI DIGITAL HOTSPOT

by Ken AB9ZD

We published a survey of the digital hotspots last year (August 2018 issue) that listed the ones that were available at the time. One of those listed was the ZUMspot. When using it with a Raspberry Pi (RPI), the RPI has to have the Pi-Star software installed and configured for it to operate.

Other companies are selling hotspots as well but many of them are based on either the DVMega or the ZUMspot and Pi-Star is recommended for both of them.

Pi-Star supports all of the common digital formats and not just D-STAR. There are also versions of Pi-Star that will run on other platforms besides the RPI.

The great news about Pi-Star is that it is still supported and regularly updated by the developers, something that cannot be said of most of the other packages available. The current version of the software for the RPI is v4.17 released January 20, 2019. Documentation is available to help a user get their hotspot up and running. And it's free. The Pi-Star software can be downloaded from:

<http://www.pistar.uk/>

A great guide for those who are to getting Pi-Star installed and configured for the first time can be downloaded from:

https://amateurradionotes.com/images/1-Playing_with_Pi-Star.pdf



ZUMspot Running the Pi-Star software
(US Quarter for Size Comparison)

Hostname: pi-star Pi-Star: 3.4.17 / Dashboard: 20190124

Pi-Star Digital Voice Dashboard for AB9ZD

Dashboard | Admin | Live Logs | Power | Update | Configuration

Gateway Hardware Information

Hostname	Kernel	Platform	CPU Load	CPU Temp
pi-star	4.9.35+	Pi Zero W Rev 1.1 (512MB)	1.63 / 0.65 / 0.24	32°C / 89.6°F

Service Status

MMDVMHost	DMRGateway	YSFGateway	YSFPParrot	P25Gateway	P25Parrot
DStarRepeater	ircdDBGateway	TimeServer	PiStar-Watchdog	PiStar-Remote	PiStar-Keeper

D-Star Link Information

Radio	Default	Auto	Timer	Link	Linked to	Mode	Direction	Last Change (CST)
AB9ZD B	REF024 B	Auto	Never	Up	REF024 B	DPlus	Outgoing	20:48:14 Jan 30th

D-Star Link Manager

Radio Module	Reflector	Link / Un-Link	Action
AB9ZD B	REF024 B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Link <input type="radio"/> UnLink	Request Change

Gateway Activity

Time (CST)	Mode	Call sign	Target	Src	Dur(s)	Loss	BER
20:48:28 Jan 30th	D-Star	KA9ENO	CQCQCQ via REF024 B	Net	41.9	0%	0.0%
20:48:24 Jan 30th	D-Star	WA9ZLM	CQCQCQ via REF024 B	Net	2.0	0%	0.0%
20:48:17 Jan 30th	D-Star	AB9ZD/INFO	CQCQCQ via REF024 B	Net	7.0	0%	0.0%

Local RF Activity

Time (CST)	Mode	Call sign	Target	Src	Dur(s)	BER	RSSI
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Pi-Star / Pi-Star Dashboard, © Andy Taylor (M0M0WZ) 2014-2019.
ircdDBGateway Dashboard by Hans-J. Barthen (DL501),
MMDVMDash developed by Kim Huebel (DG9VH).
Need help? Click here for the Facebook Group
or Click here to join the Support Forum
Get your copy of Pi-Star from here.

Pi-Star's Admin Dashboard When Setup for D-STAR

Plus, there are YouTube videos to help with installation and setup (of course).

To install Pi-Star on a hotspot, it has to be loaded onto the RPI's microSD card. To do this, a PC is needed with a microSD card reader. The microSD card has to be formatted using a program specifically written for SD cards. The Pi-Star image is downloaded, unzipped, and written to the microSD card using software like Win32DiskImager. If the RPI connection to your network will be by wifi, a configuration file needs to be created using a utility program on the Pi-Star web page then copied to the microSD card.

Once the microSD card has been prepared, pop it into the RPI and apply power. It will take a few minutes to boot up the first time but once completed, a web browser is used to log onto the RPI and you should see a "No Mode Defined" message. Just click on the "Configuration" tab and complete the process by adding information like your call sign, the frequency you want to use, the digital mode(s) you want to use, and the type of hotspot that you have. It's all explained in detail

in the guide identified earlier. When finished, the dashboard's Admin tab should look something like the above.

There is a new hotspot on the market now. The folks at SharkRF have a second version of their hotspot, the OpenSPOT2, which (for now) can only be ordered directly from SharkRF. The original OpenSPOT required a wired link into your computer network; the new OpenSPOT2 uses a wifi link. OpenSPOT does not require Pi-Star, it comes with all of the software/firmware needed for it to operate. All the user has to do is log onto the device using a web browser and select the operating parameters that are desired. The setup is pretty much bullet proof.



CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are a few of the contests that will be held in the next few weeks. Please refer to the contest web sites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Some of the places on-line with information on contests include:

ARRL Contest Corral Web page www.arrl.org/contests

ARRL's National Contest Journal www.arrl.org/ncj

ARRL Contest Update www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues

Contesting On-Line www.contesting.com

WA7BNM Contest Calendar www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

DXNews <http://dxnews.com>

DX Zone Contesting www.dxzone.com/catalog/Contesting/

ARRL Contest Calendar www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

VERMONT QSO PARTY			MINNESOTA QSO PARTY			BRITISH COLUMBIA QSO PARTY		
FEBRUARY 2, 0000Z	FEBRUARY 3, 2359Z		FEBRUARY 2, 1400Z	FEBRUARY 2, 2359Z		FEBRUARY 2, 1600Z	FEBRUARY 3, 2359Z	
1.8-28	ALL	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL	1.8-28	-	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL	3.5-28	-	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL
RS(T), COUNTY OR SPC			NAME, COUNTY OR SPC			RS(T), BC DISTRICT OR SPC		
www.ranv.org/vtqso.html			www.w0aa.org			http://orcadxc.org/bcqp_rules.html		
NORTH AMERICAN SPRINT, CW			ARRL SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP			ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST, CW		
FEBRUARY 3, 0000Z	FEBRUARY 3, 0400Z		FEBRUARY 11, 1300Z	FEBRUARY 15, 2359Z		FEBRUARY 16, 0000Z	FEBRUARY 17, 2359Z	
3.5-14	-	CW	1.8-28	ALL	PHONE, CW	1.8-28	-	CW
OTHER STATION'S CALL, YOUR CALL, SERIAL, NAME, SPC			RS(T), CLASS (I/C/S), SPC			RST, SP OR POWER		
http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf			www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup			www.arrl.org/arrl-dx		
NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY, RTTY			SOUTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY			NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY		
FEBRUARY 23, 1800Z	FEBRUARY 24, 0559Z		FEBRUARY 23, 1500Z	FEBRUARY 24, 0159Z		FEBRUARY 24, 1500Z	FEBRUARY 25, 0059Z	
3.5-28	-	DIGITAL	1.8-28	50	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL	1.8-28	50,144	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL
NAME, SPC			RS(T), COUNTY OR SPC			COUNTY OR SPC		
www.ncjweb.com			http://scqso.com/rules/			http://ncqsoparty.org/rules/		

ACARTS (W9INX) REPEATERS			FWRC (W9TE) REPEATERS			OTHER AREA REPEATERS			
Freq/Offset	Input Tone		Freq/Offset	Input Tone		Call	Freq/ Offset	Input Tone	
146.880 (-)	No tone	General use / Skywarn priority	146.760 (-)	No tone	General use (Note 1)	W9FEZ	145.330 (-)	No tone	Fort Wayne
147.255 (+)	No tone	General use	146.910 (-)	No tone	General use (Notes 1 and 4)	W9FEZ	224.780 (-)	No tone	Fort Wayne (Note 1)
443.800 (+)	No tone	General use	146.940 (-)	141.3 Hz required	General use (Notes 1 and 3)	W9FEZ	444.800 (+)	No tone	Fort Wayne (Note 1)
144.390 (s)	Digital	APRS - wide	444.875 (+)	141.3 Hz required	General use (Note 1)	K9MMQ	443.100 (+)	N/A	Fort Wayne, DMR
145.530 (s)	Digital	W9INX-1 Digipeater and Node	442.99375	D-STAR	General use (Note 2)	K9MMQ	443.275 (+)	141.3 Hz required	Fort Wayne
Notes: General Note: Standard 0.6 MHz (2-meter), 1.6 MHz (1.25-meter) and 5.0 MHz (70-cm) frequency offsets are used for all repeaters unless otherwise indicated.			Notes: 1. 141.3 Hz output tone present 2. Offset + 5.0 MHz, W9TE ___ B, W9TE ___ G 3. Yaesu System Fusion repeater, supports both FM (analog) and C4FM (digital) voice 4. EchoLink connection repeater Node number 519521			N9MTF	442.6375 (+)	N/A	Fort Wayne, DMR
						W9AVW	444.250 (+)	141.3 Hz required	Fort Wayne
Articles, photographs, and classified ads for publication in the Allen County HamNews should be emailed to the newsletter editor at AB9ZD(at)ARRL.NET several days before the first of the month. If you notice information that needs changed, please contact the newsletter editor by email. The Allen County HamNews is prepared using Adobe's InDesign software along with PhotoShop and Acrobat on an i7 PC running Windows 10.						W9OU	147.015 (+)	No tone	Auburn
						WC9AR	145.270 (-)	141.3 Hz required	Columbia City
						WC9AR	444.550 (+)	No tone	Columbia City
						K9OMA	147.375 (+)	No tone	Columbia City
						K9HC	146.685 (-)	141.3 Hz required	Huntington
						N9BCP	147.150 (+)	97.4 Hz required	Ligonier
						Notes:			

Membership Application for ☐ ACARTS OR ☐ FWRC

Name: _____ Call sign: _____ License class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____ Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____ Unlisted? ☐ Yes
 Email address: _____ ARRL Member? ☐ Yes

(ARRL membership helps your club maintain affiliation.)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster and on our club web site? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Both clubs now offer this newsletter as a downloadable (Adobe Acrobat) PDF file, in lieu of a paper copy sent through the mail. For FWRC a mailed paper newsletter is a \$25.00/yr. premium.

How would you like your newsletter delivered? ☐ by snail mail ☐ download from web site.

A.C.A.R.T.S. Dues

Regular membership ☐ \$12.00 / year
 Additional family members¹ ☐ \$6.00 / year
 Student membership² ☐ \$6.00 / year
 Associate membership³ ☐ \$6.00 / year
 (New Regular memberships are \$1/month)

Fort Wayne Radio Club Dues

Regular membership ☐ \$20.00 / year
 Family membership¹ ☐ \$30.00 / year
 Student membership² ☐ \$5.00 / year
 Associate membership³ ☐ \$20.00 / year
 Mailed newsletter premium ☐ \$25.00 / year
 (Memberships for Jul - Dec are 1/2 the stated amounts.)

1. Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

2. K-12 or full time student

3. Unlicensed member

Please attach a check (number _____) for the appropriate amount and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

ACARTS

PO Box 10342

Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342

Fort Wayne Radio Club.

PO Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

For dual membership, send a check to each club for your respective membership. Payment by check is strongly encouraged!

Special Event Stations This Month

4th Annual "RST" Special Event

1/15-2/28 0000Z-2359Z Various

<https://www.qrz.com/db/k7ice>

2019 Daytona 500

Feb 13-17 0001Z-2359Z N4DAB

<https://n4dab.com/daytona-500-special-event-station/>

"Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event

Feb 16 1400Z-2200Z WOEBB

www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

Ice Station W0JH (Frozen Lake Portable)

Feb 16-18 1600Z-2300Z W0JH

<http://www.radioham.org/>

Titan Missile Museum 35th Anniversary

Feb 23 1600Z-2000Z K7T

<https://www.tucsonhamradio.org/>

For a complete listing of special event stations (and latest updates), check the listing in QST and the ARRL web page:

www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

AREA NETS

Daily			Tuesday		
8:00 AM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net
8:30 AM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Allen Co. ARES Training Net
6:00 PM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	Wednesday		
6:30 PM	146.880-	IMO (alternate is 146.760)	7:00 PM	146.760-	FWRCYL Net
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter Net	7:30 PM	147.150+	21 Repeater Group
8:00 PM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	145.270-	Whitley Co. ARES (141.3 PL)
Week Days			8:00 PM	50.580 FM	FWRC 6-Meter FM Net
8:30 AM	3.820	Little Red Barn Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Help and Swap Net
Sunday			Thursday		
8:00 PM	444.550+	Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net	8:00 PM	D-STAR	Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)
8:30 PM	1.965 & 146.910-	"No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521	8:00 PM	50.580 AM	6-Meter AM Net
9:00 PM	145.530	Northeast Indiana Packet Net (Note 2)	8:30 PM	145.510 (s)	Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4)
Monday			Saturday		
8:00 PM	224.780-	Fort Wayne 224 Net	8:00 PM	146.685-	Huntington ARES

1. All times local time. **Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at AB9ZD (at) ARRL.NET.**

2. On 145.530 @ 1200 baud. Use unconnected converse mode to communicate for a roundtable net setting. Use your "UNPROTO" command or equivalent to set Digi path(s) through the strongest station(s) needed between you and your destination. Only use those that are necessary! Have all your "Monitor" settings on so you can see everyone.

3. Reflector REF024B.

4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred.

5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

To:

Activities Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Place
02/03/2019	1:30 PM	Foxhunt - River Greenway Trailhead/Cobin	Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course
02/05/2019	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
02/12/2019	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
02/15/2019	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
02/19/2019		NO ACARTS GENERAL MEETING	
02/21/2019	6:30 PM	Allen County ARES Storm Spotter Training	Allen County Public Library, Main Branch
03/03/2019	1:30 PM	Foxhunt - River Greenway Trailhead/Cobin	Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course
03/05/2019	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
03/12/2019	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
03/15/2019	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
03/19/2019	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Red Cross Center
11/16/2019	9:00 AM	Fort Wayne Hamfest	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
11/17/2019	9:00 AM	Fort Wayne Hamfest	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum